



MDOC to Host National Conference

The Michigan Department of Corrections has agreed to host the Correctional Accreditation Managers' Association (CAMA) Conference in 2008.

CAMA is a national organization dedicated to the support and furtherance of the accreditation process and is the largest affiliate organization of the American Correctional Association (ACA). The conference is scheduled to run from May 31 - June 3 on Mackinac Island at the Mission Point Resort. The ACA Commission on Standards and Accreditation will also be conducting accreditation panel hearings on May 30 and 31. The following staff have volunteered to serve on the host committee:

- Amy Fairbanks, Health Care Standards Coordinator
- Robin Gilbert, ARUS, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
- Bruce Denny, ACA Coordinator
- Robin Stephens, ADW, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Carol Wilson, Regional Business Administrator, Region III
- Dave Fenby, Inspector, St. Louis Correctional Facility
- Delores Crosby, Administrative Assistant, Muskegon Correctional Facility
- Michelle Sorensen, Administrative Assistant, Ojibway Correctional Facility

Fairbanks and Gilbert will co-chair the committee. They will be organizing the various sub-committees needed to make this conference a success and will be contacting the host committee members regarding their various roles in preparing for this conference.

Closure Update: JMF and RGC

The MDOC is moving forward with plans to close the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility (JMF). A date for full closure has not been determined since our transfer plan remains under review by the United States District Court.

The JMF prisoner population has decreased by about 736 inmates since the closing announcement in February. This has been through administrative transfers for special needs prisoners, lateral transfers of non-special needs prisoners and paroles and discharges. In addition:

1. JMF's 4 Block is closed. On August 3, the court granted our motion to terminate jurisdiction of 4 Block due to its permanent closure.

2. 7 Block of the Charles Egeler Reception and

Guidance Center (RGC) is closed. On August 6, the court granted our motion to terminate jurisdiction of 7 Block due to its permanent closure. Keep in mind:

3. JMF's school programs and the prisoner store will operate until the facility closes.

4. Michigan State Industries (MSI) will remain at JMF until 5 and 6 Blocks close.

5. Temporary air conditioning sufficient to keep the open housing units at a less than 90 heat index (HI) was installed for 5 and 6 Blocks.

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Reading for Leading

The following piece is a portion of an article written by First Gentleman Dan G. Mulhern, husband of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm:

In this column I have frequently written about some of the wonderful corporations that serve their clients and provide outstanding workplaces for their employees. But in this 4th of July week when we celebrate that we are a government of, for, and by the people, I feel it's overdue that I say a word about public service and public servants.

So often we, as citizens, forget the real meaning of both parts of the name "public servant." The public part is worth celebrating. In government we serve everyone. Where a corporation has the luxury to be focusing in on their particular shareholders and on their specific customers, the government serves all. It can't say, "I don't want to build roads for them, or there." "That client is a jerk; I'm done working with him." "I want to find a different niche." "I'm only going to serve customers who can pay x, y, or z." No. Government is universal, so everyone has an equal right to public goods, time, and attention. This means that public servants deal with folks that many would rather ignore.

Public servants work with prisoners and their families; obnoxious campers; with foster care children and abusive parents; with unreasonable parents and apathetic parents; with drunk drivers and with people who, for their own private gain, pollute the environment, rip off consumers, endanger workers, cheat on their taxes. I am thankful there are people who will serve all the public.

The vast majority of public employees I have encountered see themselves as "servants." Many feel it's an honor to serve. When our State was facing a huge budget deficit, public servants gave sizable concessions to help balance the state's budget. I suspect that in the next round of contract negotiations they will contribute again. And I resent the aggressiveness of those who so quickly seek a pound of flesh from these public servants, when we so seldom acknowledge them, thank them, and celebrate them for the service they do on our behalf. They make our cities, states and our nation good; they give credibility to our laws and life to our constitution.

DAN G. MULHERN

First Gentleman
State of Michigan

Closure, *continued from page 1*

It will run on days when the HI (as measured in the cell blocks) approaches 90, to keep the HI below that level.

6. RGC has a "Cool Dome," a point of court-ordered refuge for certain prisoners when the interior of the remaining cell blocks - 1, 2, and 3 - approach a HI of 90.

Keep checking the **F.Y.I.** for additional updates on the progress of closing Southern Michigan Correctional Facility.

Prison Build Present at NGA Gathering

The recent National Governor's Association conference at the Grand Traverse Resort gave the MDOC Prison Build program a time to shine.

In conjunction with the conference, the Prison Build program and Habitat for Humanity built a home on site at the Grand Traverse Resort for delivery to its permanent location. The project was coordinated through the Office of the First Gentleman and Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, as well as the Grand Traverse Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Many of the governors participated in the project.

Prison Build program staff and inmates built exterior and interior walls and kitchen and bath cabinets for the home. The following facilities and divisions were represented:

- Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility: design and panel layout drafting;
- Pugsley Correctional Facility: construction of the exterior and interior wall panels;
- Deerfield Correctional Facility: kitchen and bath cabinets (made from ash lumber taken from trees removed as a result of the ash borer disease);
- Field Operations Administration TRV Center, Baldwin: Bird house kits for children to put together during the event.



Participants from Deerfield also made and gave away more than 35 wood cutting boards. One of them was signed by the governors and given to the owners of the new home.

"Many of the nation's governors got a first hand view of the work that our administrators, staff and inmates accomplish for Habitat for Humanity on a regular basis," said Mike Green, Prison Build program administrator.



The mission of the Prison Build program is to assist Habitat for Humanity, local units of government and nonprofit organizations in providing housing and related products for low-income families through the use of inmate labor.

The program educates and provides hands-on training to inmates in the building trades and horticulture industries. The inmates construct walls, cabinets, trim and other housing components; build entire homes; design and create interior products; and devise landscape plans and provide the needed horticulture products.

Group insurance Open Enrollment Scheduled

The open enrollment period for state-sponsored group insurance plans is August 13-31, 2007. The effective date for new enrollments and any changes will be October 7.

Open enrollment information has been mailed to your home address. If you have not received it, please contact the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447 or 517-335-0529. Open enrollment information can also be found at the Employee Benefits Web site at http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854_6648---,00.html.

Important Change: Care Choices, M-Care, and PHP-Jackson will no longer be available after October 6. If you are currently enrolled in one of these HMOs, please elect your new coverage through your MI HR Self-Service account at <http://www.michigan.gov/>

mdcs/0,1607,7-147--65740--,00.html or contact the MI HR Service Center.

If you are not a Care Choices, M-Care, or PHP-Jackson member, do not need to add/remove a dependent and want to keep your current benefits, you do not need to do anything. Your coverage will remain the same for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

If you add dependents to your insurance plans, you will be required to substantiate their eligibility for enrollment by submitting the appropriate documentation to the MI HR Service Center. To review what documentation is required for your specific circumstance, please visit the Department of Civil Service Web site at http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854_6648-122942--,00.html.



Don't forget that free flu vaccinations will be offered to state employees* later this year. Perhaps you've decided not to be vaccinated, or maybe you're still undecided. If so, consider the following:

Q.: Why do I need to get vaccinated against the flu every year?

A.: Flu viruses change from year to year, which means two things. First, you can get

the flu more than once during your lifetime. The immunity (natural protection that develops against a disease after a person has had that disease) that is built up from having the flu caused by one virus strain doesn't always provide protection when a new strain is circulating. Second, a vaccine made against flu viruses circulating last year may not protect against the newer viruses. That is why the influenza vaccine is updated to include current viruses every year.

Another reason to get the flu vaccine every year is that after you get vaccinated, your immunity to the disease declines over time and may be too low to provide protection after one year. More information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm>.

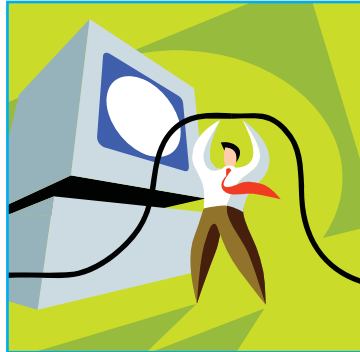
Watch for details on MDOC worksite flu vaccine clinics in October & November.

**All State insurance carriers will cover the cost of the flu vaccine, therefore, service will be provided FREE of charge to employees. The ONLY EXCEPTIONS are employees with Grand Valley Health Plan PPO & Total Health, who offer flu vaccines with the primary physician. Vaccine clinics will be scheduled statewide at state worksites by the Visiting Nurse Services of Michigan (VNSM) – A McLaren Health Service.*

Energy Savings Reminder: Computers

In support of the Governor's Executive Order 2007-6, DMB and MDIT would like to remind all employees to turn off non-essential desktop computers and laptops at the end of each day. This is a beneficial step for a number of reasons. In addition to the reduction in energy:

1. This will assist in the management of the desktop computers and laptops. The state continues the migration to a managed desktop environment to reduce the cost in maintaining office automation.
2. When the computers are powered up in the morning, software updates and services are validated and pushed to the desktop device.
3. One of the most important services validated at power up time is the anti-virus software, along with other operating system service packs and security patches.
4. Other desktop enhancements and software updates are checked and distributed during the power up function of the desktop, such as critical application changes.



5. When validating the distribution of critical patches, anti-virus updates or software enhancements, the devices that place our clients and the state most at risk are those devices that did not get powered down for long periods of time.

6. The state also has an automated asset management system where a scan of the desktop hardware and software is done at the time of power up. This in itself is important to both the agencies and MDIT for licensing and financial planning.

7. In those areas where it is deemed necessary to leave the desktop computer or laptop powered on around the clock (due to the operation remaining open 24 hours a day and weekends), it is highly recommended that scheduled log off of the desktop workstation or laptop is performed at the beginning of each shift.

8. Network printers shared by different groups of employees and newer desktop personal printers are equipped with a "power saver" mode that reduces the amount of energy the devices consume when not in use. It is not necessary to power down desktop printing devices.

SAVE THE DATE!

Minority Advisory Panel 11th Annual Conference

Friday, September 21, 2007
8 am – 4:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn South, Lansing, MI

"Breaking the Silence - Recognizing the Difference"

(Look for additional details in future editions of the F.Y.I.)



MDOC on Parade



No matter the situation, Michigan Department of Corrections employees rise to the challenge. Here are just a few stories that illustrate the courage and commitment to service our colleagues exemplify every single day:

RUO's Quick Thinking Saves Co-Worker's Life

A traffic accident could have meant the death of an MDOC employee if not for the help of a fellow staff member. G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (JCF) RUO Brian Madery was riding his motorcycle to work when he was hit by a vehicle that pulled out in front of him. The accident severed his left leg.

Fortunately, his co-worker RUO Patrick Nnanabu was traveling directly behind him and responded immediately. Nnanabu approached Madery and helped remove his work belt. He then used Madery's belt as a tourniquet to help control the bleeding. Emergency personnel who arrived on the scene stated that there is no doubt Nnanabu's quick reaction helped save Madery's life.

Madery is recovering at the University of Michigan Hospital, where his left leg was amputated above the knee. His spirits are good and he is grateful to Nnanabu and others who assisted him during this tragedy. JCF staff are planning several fund-raising events to assist the Madery family.

ERT Members Help Police Catch Crime Suspect

Six members of the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility's (SMF) Emergency Response Team (ERT) helped county police apprehend a man who was fleeing on foot. Members Rich Rudowski, James Draper, Tim Blain, Shirley McCourt, Dan Tchorzynski and Steve Bellows were returning from a training exercise when they saw an unmarked police car pursuing a man who was on foot.

Tchorzynski was driving and pulled over on the median. The SMF staff identified themselves as corrections officers and chased the subject while giving loud verbal commands for him to get to the ground. The subject did not comply with verbal direction and attempted to climb over a fence; that's when Tchorzynski tackled him. Bellows then arrived and assisted in restraining him. There were no injuries to staff or apparent injuries to the subject.

The police report indicates the subject was pursued because he was driving at a high rate of speed (in excess of 100 mph) and had struck a couple of vehicles. Bay County Sheriff Investigator Robert C. Lee was extremely grateful for the team's assistance in apprehending and restraining the subject. His reaction to seeing the six ERT members -- all dressed in black uniforms -- exit their vehicle and apprehend the man?

"I thought the Black Hawk had landed," he said.

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(l.-r.): ERT members Tim Blain, James Draper, Shirley McCourt, Rich Rudowski, Steve Bellows, Dan Tchorzynski.

MDOC on Parade



Tour of Duty

MSI Promotional Agent Bill DeHart is also an Aircrew Life Support Specialist in the Air Force Reserves. He was deployed for an assignment in Balad, Iraq earlier this year, and was responsible for the life support of the F-16 aircraft pilots. This involved maintenance, inspection and repair of the equipment that gear fighter pilots use to sustain themselves in physiologically demanding flight maneuvers. In addition, he took care of other survival related gear pilots use if they must eject over water, desert or hostile territory. Since 2001 DeHart's unit has also been to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Kirkuk (Iraq).

DeHart is shown here (r.) with Lt. Colonel Phil Sheridan (l.). Also pictured is an F-16 with the sunset in the background.



Constantly on the Alert

Pine River Correctional Facility (SPR) Officers Matt and Kelly Robertson were scuba diving up north recently when Kelly Robertson noticed swim fins floating in the water. When she pointed them out to her husband, he thought it was someone just goofing off. She wouldn't leave it at that, so they looked closer and indeed discovered a drowned man. They ended up pulling the man out of the water and performing CPR, but he could not be revived.

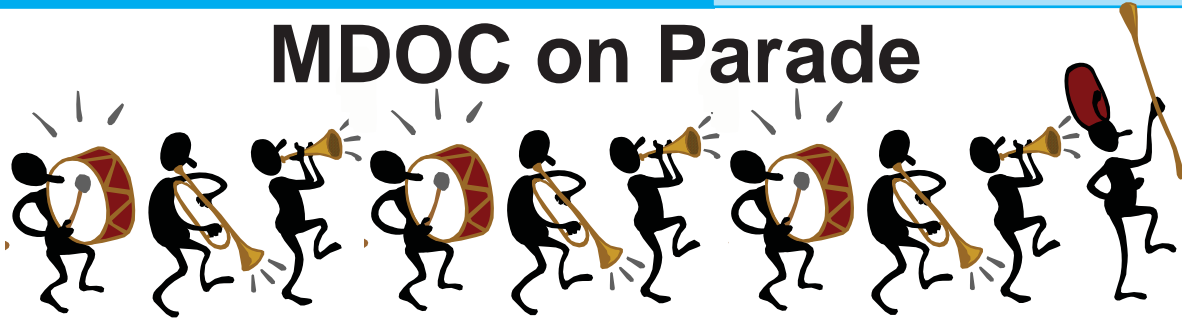
The Robertsons later learned that others had seen the fins floating earlier, but also thought it was someone goofing off. Even though the situation had an unfortunate ending, Matt and Kelly Robertson are to be commended for caring enough to get involved and attempt to save a life.

Employee Aids Lansing Police

Electronic Monitoring Center Departmental Technician Wednesday Ross was one of several people who received certificates of appreciation for helping the Lansing Police catch a man on the run. She was with a group who witnessed police chasing the man on foot. They were able to keep him in sight as he changed clothes and continued to elude the authorities.

At one point Ross yelled her cell phone number to one of the police officers. The officer called her and the group was able to provide vital information that led to the man's capture. The authorities are sure they would not have caught the suspect without help. Congratulations!

MDOC on Parade



Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week Celebration

The Circuit Court Probation, District Court Probation, and Community Corrections staffs in Macomb County celebrated Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week with a picnic. During the picnic there was a dunk tank for charity, where staff members had the chance to sink their supervisors. By all accounts the staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity, and it was a great morale booster. The dunking event raised \$123, which will be donated to the Macomb County Department of Human Services Community Giving Program.



The photo on the left (l.-r.) shows Agents Kay MacLeod, Sarah McCann, Gloria Wilber, Nicole Gray, and Lynn Heberer. On the right we have management staff who were dunked. They include (l.-r.) Agent Supervisor Jo Ann Rottenbucher, Acting Supervisor Todd Armstrong, Agent Supervisor Larry MacDonald, Area Manager Myra Gonino and Clerical Supervisor Karen Overholt.



Coldwater Complex 'Keepers for a Cure'

The Coldwater Complex – Lakeland (LCF), Crane (ACF) and Coldwater (CDW) correctional facilities – had a strong showing in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life "Keepers for a Cure" event.

The Relay For Life is a 24-hour event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. During the event teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

The Coldwater Complex team included at least 50 employees who walked in half hour increments. The team was spearheaded by Captain Cindy Herchuee and Co-Captain Rhonda Mosby, both from LCF.

The LCF Prisoner Benefit Fund and the Complex Employee Club donated \$500 each, earning them "Bronze Sponsor" status. In addition to pledges, on-site fund raisers included face painting by WPA Lynn Trall (LCF); BBQ grilling by RUO Dave Ellis (LCF); and a bake sale that netted \$300 in its own right. The entire endeavor generated more than \$4,300 for cancer research. Here we have (l.-r.) LCF RUO Sue Grigsby and C/O Rhonda Mosby at the Relay for Life.

